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Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 H-01 /064 W
----------018500 311212Z /72
R 310318Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4721
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PINS, MY, US
SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN HOME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON US-MALAYSIAN NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 0561

1. IN THE COURSE OF A MAY 29 CALL ON MALAYSIAN HOME MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE BEFORE DEPARTING FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF US-MALAYSIAN COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OUR SATISFACTION WITH THIS RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION OUR DEA REPRESENTATIVES HAVE HAD WITH THEIR MALAYSIAN COUNTERPARTS. HE NOTED THAT WE VIEWED THE RECENT CENTRALIZATION OF GOM NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS UNDER THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN POLICE (RMP) AS A PARTICULARLY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT WE WERE ALWAYS OPEN TO FURTHER SUGGESTIONS ON OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION.

2. TAN SRI GHAZALI THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR
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THESE REMARKS, AND INDICATED THAT HE SHARED THIS POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF OUR COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS, OPNOTING THAT "OUR PROS ON BOTH SIDES SEEM TO BE ON THE BALL." HE WENT ON TO DECLARE THAT THE GOM EQUATES NARCOTICS ON A PAR WITH COMMUNISM AS POSING A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. "WE INTEND TO FIGHT THE DRUG MENACE TOOTH AND NAIL,"

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HE VOWED. HE ADDED THAT LIKE COMMUNISM, THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IS INTERNATIONAL AND KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES. IN THIS REGARD HE CITED RECENT INITIATIVES BETWEEN THAI AND MALAYSIAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO EXTEND AREAS OF COOPERATION, NOTING THAT THE RTG AND GOM WERE NO LONGER BOUND BY NATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN THEIR STRUGGLES AGAINST THE JOINT ENEMIES OF COMMUNISM AND DRUGS.

3. COMMENT. GHAZALI'S STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IS RELATIVELY RECENT (WE FIRST NOTICED IT DURING THE CODEL WOLFF VISIT IN JANUARY--REFTEL). THIS INTEREST COMBINED WITH THE RMP'S NEW LEADING ROLE IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AUGURS WELL FOR INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE GOM DRUG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, PERSONAL OPINION, DRUG TRAFFIC, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA04888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780227-0244
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978054/aaaaacuv.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6486179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUALA LUMPUR 561
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2635393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAYSIAN HOME MINISTER\'S VIEWS ON US-MALAYSIAN NARCOTICS COOPERATION
TAGS: SNAR, PINS, MY, US, (SHAFIE, TAN SRI GHAZALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6486179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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